criteria, and conditions which the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, has prescribed for the administration of the physicians' comparability allowance program. This part supplements and implements the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 5948, and must be read together with that section of law.

§ 595.102 Coverage and exclusions.

(a) Subsection (g)(1) of 5 U.S.C. 5948 defines those covered by the physicians' comparability allowance program as individuals employed as physicians under certain Federal pay systems listed in that subsection. For the purposes of this part, an individual is "employed as a physician" only if he or she is serving in a position the duties and responsibilities of which could not be satisfactorily performed by an incumbent who is not a physician.

(b) Subsection (b) of 5 U.S.C. 5948 prohibits the payment of physicians' comparability allowances to certain physicians, including physicians who are reemployed annuitants. For the purpose of that subsection, a "reemployed annuitant" means an individual who is receiving or has title to and has applied for an annuity under any retirement program of the Government of the United States, or the government of the District of Columbia, on the basis of service as a civilian employee in the civil service.

(c) Physicians employed and paid under title 38, United States Code, and Commissioned Corps officers of the Public Health Service under title 42, United States Code, are not eligible for physicians' comparability allowances.

[44 FR 40876, July 13, 1979, as amended at 58 FR 65537, Dec. 15, 1993; 64 FR 72458, Dec. 28, 1999]

§ 595.103 Establishment of categories of physicians.

(a) Under subsection (c) of 5 U.S.C. 5948, the head of each agency employing physicians is required to determine categories of physician positions for which there is a significant recruitment and retention problem, and physicians' comparability allowances may be paid only to physicians serving in positions in such categories.

(b) In determining categories of physician positions, the head of each agency must, as a minimum, establish as separate categories the following types of positions:

(1) Positions primarily involving the practice of medicine or direct service to patients, involving the performance of diagnostic, preventive, or therapeutic services to patients in hospitals, clinics, public health programs, diagnostic centers, and similar settings, but not including positions described in paragraph (b)(3) of this section;

(2) Positions primarily involving the conduct of medical research and experimental work, including the conduct of medical work pertaining to food, drugs, cosmetics, and devices (or the review or evaluation of such medical research and experimental work), or the identification of causes or sources of disease or disease outbreaks;

(3) Positions primarily involving the evaluation of physical fitness, or the provision of initial treatment of on-the-job illness or injury, or the performance of preemployment examinations, preventive health screenings, or fitness-for-duty examinations; and

(4) Positions not described by paragraph (b) (1), (2), or (3) of this section, including positions involving disability evaluation and rating, the performance of medicolegal autopsies, training activities, or the administration of medical and health programs, including the administration of patient care or medical research and experimental programs.

(c) The agency head may establish as separate categories any additional subdivisions of these four categories of positions, based on any factors the agency head determines relevant. These may include such factors as the location, grade or level, and medical specialization of the positions, and the level of qualifications sought by the agency for physicians in the category.

§ 595.104 Determination of recruitment and retention problem.

A significant recruitment and retention problem shall be considered to exist for each category of physician position established under § 595.103 of this